



February 22, 2011

MICHIGAN

Honorable Members of the House Energy and Technology Committee:

On behalf of Clean Water Action's over 250,000 Michigan members, I urge you to oppose House Resolution 19.

Clean Water Action and our members care greatly about supporting the scientists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as they do their job and create standards for harmful sources of pollution.

In addition to Clean Water Action's members, a broad cross-section of Michiganders overwhelmingly support protecting public health from harmful pollution, including carbon pollution. Recent polling results show almost 2/3 of the Michigan voters who were surveyed supported allowing the EPA to do its job. And strong majorities said the EPA should be doing *more* to protect health and the environment and pass stricter standards.

These findings mirror those of national research sponsored by the American Lung Association (ALA) released yesterday that showed a 69% bipartisan majority supports allowing EPA to do pass stricter standards on air pollution. With good reason-- the ALA estimates that "in 2010 alone, enforcing the Clean Air Act is estimated to have prevented 160,000 premature deaths."

Let's take a look at what some of these standards will be doing to protect health and the environment:

- Upcoming EPA air regulations will apply to hazardous air pollution like mercury, which has already made Michigan's fish unsafe to eat in large quantities and has a negative impact on our commercial fishing and tourism economies.
- Other safeguards will protect Michigan's vital waterways from power plant cooling systems that have devastating impacts on fish breeding.
- EPA will put in place an essential national system for dealing with our toxic coal ash problem. Coal ash is stored unsafely in ponds across the state, many of which have been found to be leaking toxins like arsenic and hexavalent chromium into our water, as near as the Grand River in Lansing.
- Currently there are no limits on the amount of carbon pollution that can be emitted into our atmosphere. We believe there should be limits to this pollution. As did the U.S. Supreme Court when they ordered the EPA to address carbon dioxide pollution.

East Lansing

1200 Michigan Ave., Ste. A
East Lansing, MI 48823
Tel: 517-203-0754
Fax: 517-203-0760

Grand Rapids

949 Wealthy St., SE, Ste. 207
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Tel: 616-742-4084
Fax: 616-742-4072

Clinton Township

38875 Harper
Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Tel: 586-783-8900
Fax: 586-783-4033

Ann Arbor

205 1/2 North Main St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Tel: 734-222-6347
Fax: 734-222-6473

www.cleanwateraction.org/mi